

REMARKS

The title has been amended as required by the Examiner.

The specification and Figs. 4 and 5 of the drawings have been amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner's indication of allowability of claims 2 and 3, if rewritten in independent form, is acknowledged and appreciated.

Claims 1 and 4-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Choksi et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In Choksi et al., when receiving a facsimile message 12 from the facsimile transmitting machine 14, the computer 18 stores the facsimile message 12 and the facsimile transmission identifier of the facsimile transmitting machine (column 5, lines 3-8). The facsimile transmission identifier is associated with the communication address of the user of the facsimile transmitting machine on the look-up table 30 (column 6, lines 53-65 and column 7, lines 49-56). Then, the computer sends a notification message for notifying reception of the facsimile message to the intended recipient 23 (column 5, lines 13-35). The recipient who receives the notification message accesses the URL included in this notification message to download the facsimile message (column 5, lines 13-59).

When sending the notification message, the computer 18 sends to the facsimile transmitting machine 14 a confirmation message for announcing that it has received the facsimile message and that it forwarded the message to the recipient 23. Alternatively, the computer sends the confirmation message to the facsimile transmitting machine, after the

recipient actually accesses and reads the facsimile message (column 6, lines 1-19 and column 7, lines 18-28).

Thus, in the facsimile message system disclosed in Choksi et al., a server (computer 18) receives various facsimile messages from plurality of terminals (facsimile machines 14) connected to the PSTN 16, and the server (computer 18) itself sends confirmation messages to respective terminals (facsimile machine 14). In the present invention, in contrast, it is the terminals (client machines) that receive contents from a server (server machines) and send the delivery confirmation data to this server.

Additionally, in Choksi et al., the subject to be confirmed with the confirmation message is merely the receipt of a “facsimile message” sent from a terminal (facsimile machine 4). As such, the server (computer 18) can send the confirmation message based on only the communication address of the user, and it needs no “delivery confirmation ID that is uniquely related to the content.” In the present invention, the subject to be confirmed with the delivery confirmation data is the particular “contents” sent from the server (server machine), which can be only a part of some work. Therefore, the terminal (client machine) needs the “delivery confirmation ID that is uniquely related to the content” in addition to the server information (corresponding to the “communication address”).

Moreover, the computer 18 is the only machine which manages facsimile transmission in the system of Choksi et al. so that the facsimile machine 4 do not need any identification information of the computer in the confirmation message. In contrast, there can be a plurality of client machines in the computer network of the present invention.

Therefore, client information is essential to the delivery confirmation data for discriminating the client machine which sent the delivery confirmation data.

More specifically, claim 1 recites an ID issuance part for issuing a delivery confirmation ID that is uniquely related to the contents. The “facsimile transmission identifier” of Choksi et al. is merely a number assigned to the sending facsimile machine itself, and not a unique number assigned to contents sent by the facsimile machine (see col. 6, lines 53-65).

The present invention also includes a plug-in data creation part and a plug-in data transmission part. Column 9, lines 1-11 of Choksi et al. is cited in the Office Action as disclosing these features. Applicants respectfully disagree. Even if a header attached to a usual facsimile message includes the sender’s number and the receiver’s number, such a header does not include any identification information identifying the facsimile message itself. Therefore, Choksi et al. simply does not disclose or suggest the plug-in data creation and transmission features of the invention.

The Choksi et al. reference also does not disclose or suggest the delivery confirmation receiving part and a delivery confirmation transmission part. The confirmation message sent by the notification unit within the computer 18 of Choksi et al. (col. 8, lines 3-12) does not include any identification information of the computer. Therefore, there is no description corresponding to delivery confirmation, receiving and transmission part of the invention.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. The Examiner should contact Applicants' undersigned attorney if a telephone conference would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG.4

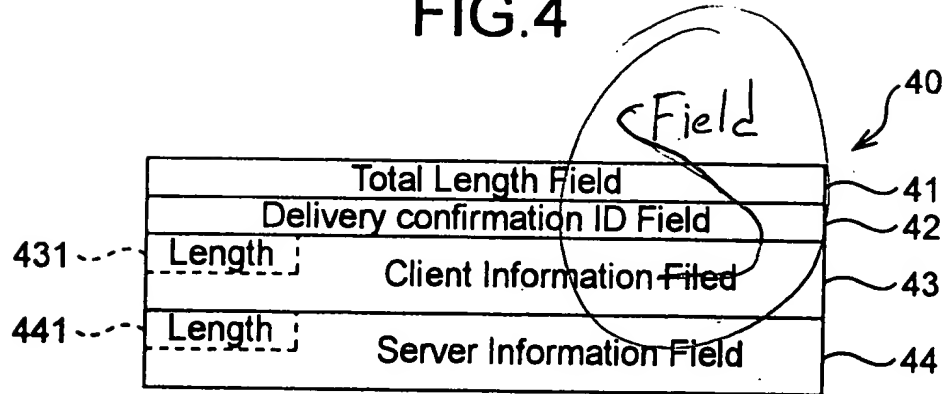


FIG.5

